Withdrawal of sanctions imposed by America

526. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has withdrawn sanctions against various entities in India in the aftermath of the Nuclear Tests of May, 1998, and imposed such sanctions against the Chinese and Pakistani entities for transfer of Missile technology by China to Pakistan, etc;

(b) if so, the details of such developments since September this year;

(c) whether UK, Japan and other big powers have also since withdrawn such sanctions; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) On 22 September 2001, President Bush certified to the US Congress that the application of sanctions and prohibitions against India was not in the national security interests of the US, and lifted all military and economic restrictions. Subsequently, on 01 October 2001, the Federal Register Notification was issued, which implements the waiver of these sanctions by removing the policy of denial for exports and re-exports to India of dual-use items controlled for non-proliferation and missile technology reasons, and restoring the use of licence exceptions for these items for Indian entities not listed on the Entity List. The Entity List has also been pruned significantly. This waiver does not extend, however, to sanctions related to violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) as imposed by the US on Chinese and Pakistani entities.

(c) and (d) On 26 October 2001, Japan announced the lifting of sanctions that it had imposed on India after the nuclear tests of May 1998.

Indians Apprehended in Connection with Aviation Blasts in America

527. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any persons of Indian origin or Indians had been apprehended in Texas USA or elsewhere for alleged hand in September 11, 2001 aviation blasts in New York and Washington;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two persons Mohd Jawed Azmath and Ayub Ali Khan carrying Indian travel documents were detained in Texas shortly after the WTC attacks. They were held on immigration violations and are being treated as material witnesses in the WTC attacks.

(c) The Government is of the view that due process of law of the USA should be allowed to have its course in this case.

Arrest of Pak High Commission official

†528. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official of Pakistan High Commission has been arrested on the charge of taking secret documents from two employees of the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to check such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) A staff member of the Pakistan High Commission was apprehended on November 1, 2001 while receiving some classified documents from two employees of the Indian Navy.

(c) and (d) The Government remains constantly vigilant about the security of the country.

Violence against Hindus in Bangladesh

†529. PROF. R.B.S. VERMA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the recent elections in Bangladesh, the minorities particularly the Hindus have been subjected to harassment and violence;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.